

**S/N 09/630,000****PATENT****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Bruce Tockman et al.

Examiner: Jeffrey R. Jastrzab

Serial No.: 09/630,000

Group Art Unit: 3762

Filed: August 1, 2000

Docket: 279.246US1

Title: LEAD HAVING VARYING STIFFNESS AND METHOD OF  
MANUFACTURING THEREOF**PETITION TO WITHDRAW HOLDING OF  
ABANDONMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.181**

Office of Initial Patent Examination  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

According to the Notice of Abandonment, dated August 2, 2001, the above-identified patent application has become abandoned due to a failure to timely reply to the Notice to File Missing Parts dated September 22, 2000.

However, in response to the Notice to File Missing Parts, dated September 22, 2000, Applicant timely filed a Notice to File Missing Parts, a Communication Re: Missing Parts, a Petition for Extension of Time and the requisite fees, on March 22, 2001. In return, Applicant received a PTO-stamped postcard acknowledging receipt of the above documents on December 15, 2000.

Additionally, in response to the Notice to File Missing Parts, dated September 22, 2000, Applicant timely filed a Notice to File Missing Parts, a Communication Re: Missing Parts, a signed Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney, a Petition for an additional one-month Extension of Time, and the requisite fees, on April 23, 2001. In return, Applicant received a PTO-stamped postcard acknowledging receipt of the above documents on April 27, 2001. Copies of the timely filed Response and Petition for Extension of Time, as well as the PTO-stamped postcard are attached. This evidence indicates that the Response to the Notice to File Missing Parts was timely filed and that the Response was received by the Patent Office.

Thus, there is no action or omission by Applicant to support a holding that the above-identified application is abandoned. Accordingly, it is believed that the abandonment holding should be withdrawn and prosecution of the application resumed as soon as possible.

Petition to Withdraw Holding of Abandonment Under 1.181

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It is Applicant's understanding that no fee is required for a petition to withdraw a holding of abandonment. (See MPEP 711.03(c).) Thus, no fee is enclosed. However, if a fee is required, please charge to Deposit Account 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

BRUCE TOCKMAN ET AL.

By their Representatives,

SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER &amp; KLUTH, P.A.

P.O. Box 2938

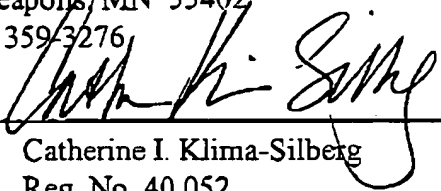
Minneapolis, MN 55402

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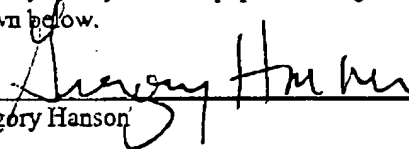
Date

Jan. 03, 2002

By

  
Catherine I. Klima-Silberg  
Reg. No. 40,052

I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

  
Gregory Hanson3 JANUARY 2002  
Date of Transmission